A DUSTINA

U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

January 21, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES V. ALBERTO CRUZ

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that Alberto Cruz, 32, of Buffalo, New York, pled guilty today before U.S. District Judge John T. Elfvin to two counts of bank robbery. The maximum penalty for each count is 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said the defendant admitted that on September 21, 2004, he robbed the M&T Bank located at 130 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York, and that on September 28, 2004, he robbed the Key Bank located at 52 Amherst Street, Buffalo, New York.

The plea was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Peter J. Ahearn. Sentencing is scheduled for April 15, 2005, at 1:00 p.m.

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